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Book H24

THE

ACTS OF KINGS:

A Biblical Narrative

OF THE

ACTS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND KINGS

OF

THE FIRST PROVINCE, ONCE VIRGINIA.

INCLUDING THE DOINGS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND TYCOONS
OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND,

FROM THE SURRENDER TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY

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PREFACE.

THESE chapters were printed, originally, in the columns of the "Southern Opinion," as the events they celebrate gave birth to them; but the edition of copies, weekly, having been exhausted before the demand was supplied, the author, prompted by their generous reception, and yielding to the solicitations of friends, has concluded to submit them to the public in the present collected form, with the chapters arranged in the order of occurrence which their text rehearses, revised and corrected.

THE AUTHOR.

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THE ACTS OF KINGS.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

IN THE

HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF THE FIRST TYCOON.

HE DELIVERETH UP THE CITY TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE NORTHMEN, WHO DETHRONETH HIM, AND REIGNETH IN HIS STEAD. — HE GROWETH WROTH, AND SENDETH FOR KING SORA, WHO COMFORTETH HIM “IN A HORN.” — THE PEOPLE MAKE CHOICE OF A CHIEF RULER, AND A MAN OF WAR, AND THE CAPTAIN OF THE NORTHMEN “WARNETH” HIM. — THE MAGISTRATES CHOOSE FROM AMONG THEMSELVES A RULER, EVEN A TYCOON II., WHO REIGNETH.

1. And it came to pass the twelfth year of the reign of the Tycoon of the Ruffled Bosom, that there was war in all the land.

2. And the hosts of the Northland strove against the hosts of the Southland. And the hosts of the Northland were like unto locusts, so exceeding great that they could not be numbered.

3. And they came up and encompassed the chief city of the Southland, and it fell, for the hosts of the Southland, though valiant, were few in numbers.

4. Now, when the Tycoon and Chief Ruler heard that the chief city had fallen, he got him up very early in the morning, even before the crowing of the cock, or bitters time,

and taking with him certain great men of his privy council and wines for a peace offering, went out in his chariot to meet the hosts of the Northmen advancing from the North.

5. And when the Tycoon came in sight of the hosts of the Northmen, and saw that they were great and terrible, he was not loth to strengthen himself with a little of the wine he had brought along as a peace offering.

6. And when the chariot of the Tycoon had drawn nigh unto the Captain of the Northmen, the Tycoon made haste to alight therefrom, and rent his ruffles, and bowed himself exceedingly low to the ground, so that he kissed it; thereby causing an unexpected rent in the seam of his hindermost garments.

7. And when the Captain of the Northmen saw the wine that the Tycoon and Chief Ruler had brought forth as a peace offering, he "smiled."

8. And the Tycoon and Chief Ruler, seeing that the Captain had "smiled," and esteeming himself as less than a grasshopper before him, "smiled" himself, as also did they that were with him.

9. And it came to pass that when all had "smiled," and the Tycoon had rent his ruffles yet a second time, and also his breeches yet more, by reason of his exceeding low bowing, that he laid the key of the city at the feet of the Captain of the Northmen, and was lifted into his chariot, he and they that were with him, and straightway returned to his own place.

10. But when the Captain of the Northmen came up to possess the city he had taken, he drave the Tycoon and Chief Ruler from his Temple, and sat in the seat of the Tycoon himself, by virtue of the keys he had given him.

11. And when it came to the ears of the Tycoon that the Captain of the Northmen had defiled his seat, he was exceeding wroth.

12. And rose up and rent his ruffles yet a third time, and

spat in his bosom, and took counsel with King Sora, his Scribe, as to what the people should do.

13. And they "smiled" together for the first time in many days.

14. For, said the Tycoon and Chief Ruler, *ex-officio*, I will seek consolation where I will be sure to find it,— in a horn.

15. And King Sora straightway saddled and mounted his ass, and took his departure into the wilderness of New Kent, hard upon the river, there to become a tiller of the soil and shoot his biped namesake in season.

16. Now it came to pass in the second month of the dominion of the Northmen, and the rule of the Captain, who sat in the seat of the Tycoon, that the people with one accord began to cry out, Give us a Tycoon and Chief Ruler of our own, to be chosen from among ourselves.

17. And they gave them back the Tycoon, and First Ruler whom they drove from the throne, to rule over them.

18. And King Sora, when he heard of it, made merry within himself, and journeyed back to the city on his ass.

19. For, said he, am I not Scribe to the Tycoon, and Chief Ruler of the city?

20. And it came to pass, but not strangely, that when the Tycoon lifted up his spectacles, and saw King Sora on his ass, he "smiled."

21. And the Tycoon and Chief Ruler went into his seat in the Temple, and King Sora, the Scribe, sat beside him.

22. But certain of the Tribe of Freedmen, who had been bondsmen before the coming of the Northmen, murmured greatly against the Captain of the Northmen.

23. For the Chief Ruler had afflicted them with stripes, each according to the measure of his offending.

24. And the tribe sent messengers, gifted with "gab," to the King of the Northmen, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. Give us one of our own tribe,—

Fields Cook, the Caterer, or Lomax Smith, the Barber, to sit in the seat of the Tycoon.

25. But the King would not, but gave unto the messengers a writing, which being brought to the Captain of the Northmen, he straightway arose and drove the Tycoon and Chief Ruler forth from his seat yet a second time, and sat therein himself.

26. For, said he, I will be Chief Ruler yet awhile until these people "reconstruct" themselves.

27. And the Tribe of Freedmen, when they saw the Tycoon and Chief Ruler driven forth, and the Captain of the Northmen sitting in his seat, they howled and danced the Dervish, and clapped their hands for joy, and said, *Dus far de Lord hab helped us.*

28. And King Sora, when he saw what was being done to the Tycoon and Chief Ruler of the city, was sore dismayed, and got astraddle his ass, and belabored him into the wilderness of New Kent again.

29. And it came to pass after the space of four months, and in the fifth moon of the dominion of the Northmen, that the Captain thereof made proclamation to all the people, to the end thereof that they should assemble and choose a Tycoon and Chief Ruler from among their own nation.

30. And the Tycoon and First Ruler made haste, and sent messengers to King Sora, his Scribe.

31. And King Sora came out of the wilderness of New Kent, belaboring his ass, for she could hardly get along fast enough for him.

32. For there was no grass in New Kent; the locusts had devoured it all.

33. And the Chief Ruler that had been, commanded King Sora to blow a trumpet, that the Southmen might know that he desired to be the chosen of the people.

34. And they that did dwell in Rocketts, and Butchertown,

and Screamersville, and Sydney, and other pleasant places round about the chief city of the Tycoon, when they heard the braying of the trumpet, knew what it betokened, and, being in expectation of much free whiskey, shouted as with one voice: O Tycoon, live forever!

35. Now, the pricked ears of the Captain of the Northmen caught the sound of the braying trumpet and the shouting of the multitudes, while yet sitting in the seat of the Tycoon, and his countenance changed to a boiled lobster hue.

36. And he counselled with his Scribe, who sat in the seat of King Sora, saying, This man defileth us.

37. Straightway he caused messengers to be sent to the Tycoon privately, saying, Thou shalt not sit again in the seat of the Chief Ruler, neither shalt thou put thyself forth as the choice of this people, for I have sworn it. Selah.

38. And when the Tycoon had heard the messengers he "smiled," and went forth among the people in a great rage, so much so, that he did rend his last remaining ruffle, and his hindermost garment yet again a fourth time, lest, peradventure, the people should say he acquiesced to the "powers that be."

39. And the Southmen, when they saw that their Tycoon and Chief Ruler was no more to reign over them in his place, laid hold on one Sturdyvent, a mighty man of valor, who had helped them with big guns in the war upon the Northmen.

40. And the Northmen who dwelt in the city laid their heads together, spitting in each other's ears, saying, Let us defeat the machinations of our enemies.

41. And they brought forth a man of Peace, who was at the same time a Taylor, and a Grocer, and eschewed politics, tobacco, whiskey, and evil ways.

42. And it came to pass that when the people came together to cast lots which of the two should serve them as

Tycoon and Chief Ruler, that the man of Peace "went under," and the man of War was lifted up, and chosen to sit in the seat of the Tycoon, and the temple thereof.

43. But when he would have sat in the seat of the Tycoon, as Chief Ruler, and the chosen of the people, there came a messenger, saying, Thou shalt not sit in the seat of the Tycoon, to which this people have chosen thee, for thou hast helped this people to war against our King.

44. So said the messenger to all the servants chosen by the Southmen, who had helped them to make war upon the Northmen, save one, who kept the records of the city.

45. For, said the messenger, thou art a rebellious set, and not to be trusted, not even with pop-guns, nor an extra ration.

46. "Reconstruct" yourselves, and then will we give unto thee a Tycoon, to be chosen from your own nation, to rule over you.

47. And when the magistrates, and chief men, and their servants, heard what the messenger had said unto them, they trembled, and their knees grew weak and smote one against the other, and they waxed sore afraid and vexed; for, said one, These men will devour us without sauce.

48. And they sent to the Captain of the Northmen messengers skilled in diplomacy, and oily of tongue, to intercede for them.

49. And the messengers bowed very low when they came into the presence of the Captain of the Northmen, sitting in the seat of the Tycoon.

50. Peradventure, they licked his boot.

51. And the Captain, seeing that they were sorely vexed and afraid, and that their knees smote one against another, gave answer to their petition, to the end that all the servants of the city, chosen by the people, might purify themselves by subscribing to the oath of the King, save Sturdyvent, who would be Tycoon and Chief Ruler, and Marmaduke, his

Counsellor, who, being valiant men of war, had muchly helped the Southmen to war against the King.

52. Then the magistrates said, Let us choose one from among ourselves who shall be Tycoon and Chief Ruler, even Tycoon the II.

53. And they drew lots, and the lot fell upon a middle man, albeit a Chandler, even a tallow-chandler, a grocer, who had neither been for peace nor war, and who was as a babe in the law alphabet.

54. And they anointed him with an oath, adding thereunto equal parts of whiskey and water, and sat him up in the seat of the Tycoon, to be their Chief Ruler and Recorder, even Tycoon the II.

55. And when the Tycoon of the Ruffled Bosom heard all this, he lifted up his spectacles and wept sore, wiping his eyes with a red bandanna, and, taking along his "Guide," went up into the mountain of the south-west; for, said he, the glory of the Tycoon-ship hath departed from me forever. Selah.

56. And when this was told King Sora, he saddled his ass and departed again into the wilderness of New Kent; for, said he, I am Scribe to the Tycoon no more forever. Selah.

57. And when Andrew, of the Tribe of Freedmen, who kept the Temple, saw the "situation," he dropped his duster and moaned, Now, am I no more servant to the Tycoon forever. Selah.

58. And the Tycoon's favorite cock in the basement flapped its wings and crowed, Selah.

59. And his favorite mocking bird, swinging in its cage, answered, Selah.

60. And Tycoon the II., who is a Chandler, is Chief Ruler of the city, and reigneth in his stead. Selah.

61. Here endeth the history of the first, and beginneth the history of the second Tycoon.



CHAPTER I.

THE KING APPOINTETH A CITY ASSESSOR, EVEN HIS OWN BROTHER.

1. And it came to pass, in the second year of the reign of King Schofield, and the third year of the dominion of the five Southern kings appointed to reign over the ten Southern provinces, that the city of the Seven Hills was sorely afflicted.

2. And the city assessor, one Dabney, surnamed Miller, a man of good report, sinned greatly, because of his hankering after filthy lucre, and, as alleged against him, did, as an unfaithful servant of the people, make false returns of grievous assessments put upon certain publicans in the matter of licenses assessed against them for the privilege of opening shops, and selling in the market-places of the city.

3. And the publicans began to murmur greatly against the

city, and against the unjust assessor, saying: This man assesseth us wrongfully, and maketh us to give double tithes; one tithe of which he sinketh into his own purse, and the residue into the treasury of the city.

4. And the publicans, being thus grievously put upon, agreed together among themselves to "go for" the unjust assessor; and they went for him.

5. And their going was noised about the city so sorely afflicted.

6. And when it came to the ears of the Counsellors, the wise men of the city, who ruled therein, and feared the King, they were greatly troubled.

7. And when they were gathered together by a swift-running messenger, and were all assembled together in the Council Chamber of the Hall of Justice, they sent for the publicans who had been so grievously put upon to come unto them.

8. And they came, and with them came a great cloud of witnesses, and much testimony.

9. And when the Counsellors had listened to the complaints of the publicans, their aged eyes were opened and they saw;

10. Saying, They have the dead wood on him; let us go for him.

11. And they went for him, the unjust assessor Dabney, surnamed Miller, and removed him from office, and took away from him the little tally-books wherein he had written the names of the publicans he had so grievously put upon.

12. And Dabney, whose surname is Miller, was very wroth, and as soon as it had come unto his ears, he went straightway and saw a man.

13. But the Counsellors sent a message to the King, setting forth all that had been done, and saying, We pray you that you appoint not a successor until such time as

we shall mind you ; for our city hath been grievously dealt with, and her people are badly off for tithes.

14. And the Counsellor, David, surnamed Saunders, who went messenger unto the King, made a salaam before the King, bowing very low, and went his way.

15. Then the King rose up from his throne, and after he had refreshed himself with wine, he sent for the chief of his household ; -

16. Saying, These people are rebellious yet, and there are among them men neither just nor upright ; no, not one.

17. Now, behold, I will send unto them a just man, of my own kindred and household ; one who fears God and serves the King, and he shall be their assessor.

18. And his right hand shall have an inkling of what his left hand doeth.

19. And the Scribe answered, saying, O King, live forever !

20. And it came to pass when the Counsellors were again assembled in their upper chamber, that the King sent unto them a well-beloved and exceedingly comely brother to be their assessor ;

21. Saying, Surely they will reverence the anointed brother of the King, who is of the household of Schofield ; for he is comely and of royal blood, and knoweth a thing or two.

22. And when E. M. (for short), the King's brother, had come into the Council Chamber, and delivered the writings making known the King's will, the countenances of the Counsellors became troubled, and they debated among themselves, for they all did greatly fear the King.

23. But when certain of the Counsellors had stood forth in behalf of the King, and the King's chosen assessor, they relaxed ;

24. Saying, It's a smash ; let us go for him.

25. And they went, even Thomas, whose surname is Epps, and Apollo, the chief of the Counsellors, whose surname is Macfarland.

26. And they took him, the King's brother, E. M., to be the city assessor.

27. And they put upon him the robes of office, and sat him up in the office of the late assessor, even upon the high stool of the same, and gave into his hands the little tally-books in which were written the names of the publicans to be assessed.

28. And when a bond was required of the King's brother that he should walk uprightly among the publicans, and not put upon or take from them bribes and tithes unjustly,

29. Behold, David, whose surname is Saunders, moved by his fear of the King's wrath, went upon his bond, and coppered on the ace with two thousand pieces of silver, or its equivalent in stamps.

30. For he saw that it was a good thing, and sought favor in the eyes of the King, and his comely brother, E. M., the new assessor he had sent unto them ;

31. Saying, There is given unto him that is assessor the power to appoint three deputies, to run out and in before him among the publicans ; and he, because of the favor I have found in his eyes, shall pitch upon my sons, and my kindred, and they shall be his deputies, and no more be a burden to me.

32. And David, whose surname is Saunders, lifted up his voice and said, O King, live forever !

33. Thus came to pass all these things that the Radical Scriptures might be fulfilled :

34. Behold, I will put strangers over you, and they shall fill your high places, and gather of all your sustenance, and there shall be no places for those who dwell within the city.

35. But the people, and the publicans, and all that pay tithes for taxes, murmur against the King, because he has put over them his own brother, that he may oppress and spoil them double-handed.

36. Here endeth the first chapter of the Acts of Kings.

CHAPTER II.

THE KING REMOVETH THE LAWGIVERS OF THE CITY.

1. Hearken, O ye people, that dwell within the city, and give heed unto the chronicles of the Acts of Kings, as they are continued and recorded.

2. And get ye ready garments of sackcloth and ashes, that ye may mourn in your habitations and upon the streets of the city, because the King that ruleth in the Province hath again stretched forth his hand to trouble the oppressed.

3. Behold, he hath made the place of Justice desolate, and the seats of the magistrates vacant, and there is no more justice in all the city.

4. The golden balances of Justice he hath broken, and, as a strong man, he hath lain the rod upon the backs of them that bore it.

5. Yea, being mighty, the King eateth up the books of the lawgivers, and setteth himself in their stead.

6. And clotheth himself in the ermine of the lawgivers, even as one that putteth on a garment above his armor.

7. For thus saith the Mighty One, This people shall know that I am King, the anointed of the tribe of Schofield, and upon their rebellious necks will I plant my footstool.

8. And upon the necks of their wise men, and their lawgivers, and their valiant men of war, and all that work despite against my chosen servants, and against the chosen of the nation, who are of the tribe of Ethiopia.

9. Then hearken, O ye people that dwell within the city, and give heed unto the chronicles of the Acts of Kings, as they are continued and recorded.

10. And it fell on a time that certain spies who were privy to the deeds of the lawgivers, and were themselves sore

athirst and hungry after place, came unto the King secretly by night, saying,

11. Behold, is it not given unto you, O King, to rule in this Province with a rod of iron, and to break the stubbornness of this stiff-necked and seditious people?

12. But know ye not, O King, that these men, who have been put as lawgivers over us, are eye-servants, wicked workers, railers at the King and the King's anointed; that they do set at naught his proclamations, and the holy statutes that are given unto them?

13. And the King hearkened unto the soothsayers, and as they proceeded the King changed countenance three several times; his brow darkened, and the lightning that did play out of his nostrils illuminated the third part of the city, so great and terrible was the anger of the King.

14. And the city being darkened again, all the people bewailed in their houses, for they knew it was a sign that the King was exceeding wroth, and prepared yet another woe for the people.

15. And while the soothsayers and spies were yet speaking, the King rose up suddenly, and rent his robe, and swear upon his sword, by the Great Radical Dragon, the Assembly of Saints, and the seat of the Beast, that is at Washington, that the lawgivers should be no more.

16. And the soothsayers bowed themselves three times before the throne, and from the midst of them issued voices, saying,

17. There is but one King, and he is Schofield, and unto him is given power, and dominion, and glory, and we only are his true servants.

18. And the King, in great wrath, commanded that a copy of the records of the lawgivers be brought him.



19. And when it was brought, as the King commanded, he clave it in twain with his sword, and cast the parchment beneath his sandals and spat upon it, saying,

20. Thus do I rend and spurn it and thou, O ye stiff-necked and rebellious lawgivers.

21. And the messenger who bore the parchment rended and spat upon by the King trembled, and bowed himself even unto the dust before the King, saying,

22. There is but one King, and he is Schofield.

23. At that self-same hour, behold the veil of the Temple of Justice was rent, and the thieves and murderers, and all that worked abomination in the city, rejoiced and clapped their hands, and were exceeding glad, saying,

24. The lawgivers have fallen from their high places, and now they who are of ourselves shall sit in the seats of the magistrates of the city.

25. And the King, when he had anointed himself and looked into the Radical Koran, to the end that his knowledge of good and evil might be refreshed, made a sign unto



his pen and sword bearer, Sef, whose surname is Chalfin, saying,

26. Write unto these lawgivers that have railed against the anointed, and set at naught the holy statutes of the Dragon, that they may no longer be lawgivers in the city of the Seven Hills.

27. Thus saith the King.

28. And Sef, whose surname is Chalfin, wrote all that the King commanded.

29. And when Sef had written, and the King had affixed the seal of the Great Dragon thereunto, he sent the writing unto the lawgivers.

30. And it did happen that, when the writing was brought unto the lawgivers, they were seated in the Hall of Justice, much concerned among themselves because of a son of Ham, who is of the tribe of Ethiopia, who stood accused of theft.

31. And when the Recorder, John, whose surname is Regnault, and an upholsterer, had read the writing, and understood its purport,

32. Behold, his countenance changed into the hue of a lobster boiled, his tongue clave unto the roof of his mouth, his knees smote together, and he became as a dead man.

33. But when he had partaken of a little water that was handy, he rose up, and rent his ermine, and brake his pen, and emptied the ink-horn upon his head, saying,

34. Alas! I am no more Recorder unto the city of the Seven Hills. Thus saith the King.

35. And they that sat with him, the magistrates of the city, whose surnames are Timberlake, Binford, McCarthy, Jones, Wortham, Higgins, Ellett, Royster, Bodeker, Starke, and Christian, when they saw what the Recorder had done, and that he was sore afraid, they rose up as one man,

36. And rent each his own ermine, and brake each his own pen, and emptied each his own ink-horn on his head, saying,

37. Alas ! I am no more a Magistrate unto the city of the Seven Hills. Thus saith the King.

38. And the Scribes that waited in the Hall of Justice to make record of the doings therein, Robert, surnamed Howard, and Andrew, surnamed Jenkins, lamented greatly, and adjourned to the most convenient saloon, saying,

39. Now we are no more Scribes to the Chief Magistrates of the city. Thus saith the King.

40. And it came to pass that the Mayor, called the Tycoon, was in his chamber, and when the uproar came to his ears, and he saw the people running together, he asked what it meant.

41. And when he was told all that had happened, he was sore dismayed, and strengthened himself, for he fully expected a similar writing from the King.

42. But the King stayed his hand, and spared yet a little longer the Tycoon of the city.

43. Hearken, O ye people that dwell within the city, and give heed unto the chronicles of the Acts of Kings as they are continued and recorded.

44. And after all these things had come to pass, the word of the King was sent unto certain strange men of the city, not of its kindred, saying,

45. Greeting unto you, and the grace of the most mighty King, who is Schofield, and iruleth n the Province ;

46. Peace be unto you, and a snug place.

47. Behold I shall make appointment of you unto the seats of the rebellious magistrates that I have cast down, and you shall be the lawgivers for the people who are of my kindred, and to the sons and daughters of Ham, who are of the tribe of Ethiopia.

48. And they who have not the mark of the Beast in their foreheads, and swear not by the testament of their faith, ye shall utterly ignore ; for by the test oath ye shall try them.

49. For I the King have sworn it.

50. And the evil-doers, and those that work abomination and love a lie, rejoiced greatly, and made tumult about the place of the King, and “these head-quarters,” saying,

51. There is but one King, and he is Schofield, and we are his faithful servants.

52. But the people who are just and upright, and dwell in the city of the Seven Hills, mourned as they that mourn for one dead; for they knew that Justice lay slain in her tabernacle.



CHAPTER III.

THE KING COMMANDETH THAT THE PEOPLE BE SEALED ANEW. —

THE NEW REGISTRATION. — A SON OF HAM, ALL THE WAY FROM HANOVER, COME TO SEAL.

1. And the word of the King came unto the Registrars of the city, saying,

2. Prepare ye for a new registration of the people, that they may be sealed yet once more.

3. For know ye that an accusation hath gone forth against the King, and against the Registers, saying,

4. They have sealed more Ethiopians than the number of the tribe that live in the wards of the city, and have refused to seal them that rebelled against the Dragon and have repented.

5. Moreover, they are very froward, and make bold to claim the seats of the five elect, chosen by the Ethiopians to be their lawmakers, and help give unto all the people of this Province a new testament, even a Radical Testament, and a new Table of Commandments, as ordered by

the General Assembly of Radical Saints, who rule at Washington, which is the seat of the Beast.

6. For behold, there is now established the new Dispensation, foretold by the prophets, saying,

7. In those days it shall come to pass that the servant shall go in before his master, and the serving-man shall stand in the boots of him he hath served.

8. And he that is of dusky countenance, and thick-lipped, shall be preferred above him that is fair of skin, and of Saxon blood.

9. For old things have passed away with the second flood, and all things have become new.

10. And when the Registrars whom the King appointed had received the words of the Mighty One, who is Schofield, they gave heed, and made haste that the new registration might be made, even as he had commanded, and the people numbered and sealed anew.

11. For the time drew nigh when it was appointed for the people to assemble throughout the Province, and vote upon the new Radical Testament and Table of Commandments prepared by the hundred elect, gathered from the four corners of the Province, and who even then disputed among themselves in the House of the Rulers, in the chief city.

12. And to each of the five wards of the city there was given a Chief Registrar, and under him Registrars and fast-writing Scribes, cunning with the pen, to write down the names of such as sought to be sealed.

13. And power was given unto them to seal all men whosoever would be sealed, save they from whom is taken away the royal gift of franchise, because in the Great Rebellion they conspired together to overcome the Dragon.

14. Concerning these it was written, Seal them not; but if any present themselves before you, saying, Seal

us, and swear falsely, ye shall deliver them into the hands of the centurions, that they may be brought before the King.

15. And it was commanded that none save those who are sealed, and whose names are found written in the books of the Registrars, shall be deemed worthy to bear the ballot, and vote upon the adoption of the new Radical Testament and Table of Commandments.

16. When the time for the sealing was fully come, the King made yet further proclamation, saying,

17. Seal ! And they straightway began to seal.

18. And, behold, there came up great multitudes of the Ethiopians, and stood round about the sealing-places, and encompassed the Registrars, saying,

19. Seal us, for we have come a day's journey that we might be sealed.

20. And in numbers they were very great, insomuch that the cloud of their presence rested upon the city, and shut out the light of the sun, and the Registrars sealed them by gas-light, even while it was yet high noon.

21. And the time of the sealing was a holiday unto the Ethiopians, such as bear the ballot, and they did no work in all the days thereof, but decked themselves each in his most gorgeous raiment, and made merry each with his own neighbor on untaxed corn-juice.

22. Albeit, when they hungered, they encompassed the Bureau, and cried unto him that ladleth up the soup, and bestoweth the Radical bread, saying,

23. Give unto us to eat of the Bureau soup and bread, that we may be filled, and tarry amongst you yet a little longer, to the end that we may be sealed, as our League and the King hath commanded.

24. And it came to pass in those days that the merchant-man drave his own dray, and kindled his own grate, and saddled his own ass, and went about his own business.

25. And when it was asked of him, Where is thy manservant?

26. Behold, the merchantman made curt answer, angrily saying,

27. He is sealing.

28. And it came to pass furthermore, during the continuance of the sealing, that men hailed one another in the streets of the city, and made salute one to the other.

29. And made inquiry, not concerning their wives, nor kindred, nor mother-in-law, nor father-in-law, but concerning the great sealing, saying,

30. O brother, hast thou sealed, according to the commandment of the King?

31. And the brother would make answer, saying, Yea, verily have I sealed.

32. Howsomever, there were those among the people of the city who sealed not, neither would they be sealed, but went their way in a mood not at all hopeful, saying,

33. What's the use? The Ethiopians have possessed the city and the sealing-places thereof, and we are to them in numbers as a handful of white beans in a bushel measure of black-eyed peas.

34. Therefore, because of them that were lukewarm, and sealed not, the Ethiopians of the city made much ado, and sent unto certain of their tribes that dwell in Henrico and Hanover, and the regions round about, saying,

35. Come unto us speedily that our enemies may be out-sealed, and the woolly crown of Ethiopia exalted.

36. And they came a-running.

37. And it did happen in those days when a freedman was abroad upon the highway and journeyed, that he was asked,

38. Son of Ham, whither goest thou?

39. And behold he would give answer, saying, I go a-sealing.



40. Thus came it to pass as foretold by the hapless prophet "J. N.," who prophesied, saying,

41. A negro for a sixpence, and two negroes for a measure of barley, and the two shall not earn their salt.

42. For, behold, the negro shall become as the Irishman's flea, seldom to be found in the same place.

43. Yea, he shall become utterly unreliable, save as a voter, and the Radical Bureau shall feed him.

44. So the Registrars sealed them, even the least of the dusky sons of Ham, because they were valuable as voters, and knew not on which side their bread was greased.

45. But lo! when some of them would be sealed, behold, the Registrars found them without names or local habitation.

46. And the Chief Registrar spoke thusly unto one of the nameless:

47. Son of Ham, what is thy name, and where is thy abiding place?

48. And he answered, saying, I dunno. Is ye not bidden to gib unto us names?

49. And they sealed him, and unto him was given a new name, that he should remember it when he came again unto the voting place.

50. Likewise many others baptized they a second time, and gave unto them new names, because they remembered not the names under which they were last sealed.

51. Peradventure, the Registrars sealed not a few by proxy.

52. And they 'gan to grow aweary, the Registrars of sealing, and the sons of Ham of being sealed, saying,

53. Enough! we have sealed a plenty.

54. But when the day appointed for the ending of the new registration drew nigh, the High Priests and the expounders of the Radical Talmud, and all they that pay court to the Ethiopians, because of their votes, went among them, and cheered them, saying,

55. Seal every one of you, and see to it that the city is delivered over unto us; and then ye shall be our Mandarins, and from among ye shall be chosen the chief Mandarin, even the Chief of Police.

56. Also, the King, the great I AM, who had commanded the sealing, went forth in his chariot, and showed himself unto the multitude, to the end that the Ethiopians might be made glad, and the people displeased.

57. And Francis, surnamed Plowpoint, the Governor of the Province, under the King, himself sealed in the presence of the King.

58. And when the Ethiopians saw that the Governor made himself even less than the least of them, and had sealed before them, and in the presence of the King,

59. They shouted, saying, Behold, he seeketh to be again Governor over the Province.

60. And when James, whose surname is Hunnicutt, one of

the five elect, saw that the Governor had sealed, and heard the multitude shouting, he was vexed in his very soul, for he, too, did lust after the office and the possession of the pleasant mansion on the Square.

61. And straightway he made haste to seal, but the Ethiopians were dumb, and some of the baser sort wagged their heads, and put forth their tongues as a sign of derision, saying,

62. Bah! he thinketh to sit in the vacant seat among the General Assembly of Radical Saints at Washington.

63. And when Burnham, surnamed Wardwell, called the "cool, icy man," had made a flourish and the sign of the sealing, the Ethiopians shouted once more, saying,

64. That's cool! Behold, he maketh a bid for the office of Tycoon of the city.

65. Thus were they all sealed, from the least even unto the greatest of them.

66. Only the King, who sealed not, for himself was the seal.

67. And when they had made an end of sealing, the King made proclamation to the Registrars, saying,

68. Cease from sealing, and let him that is yet unsealed be unsealed still.

69. And let him that is unregistered be unregistered still.

70. Blessed are they whose names are written in the books of the new Registration, for they, and they only, shall vote on the new Constitution.

71. For I, the King, who reigneth over the Province, hath said and sealed it with an oath.

72. Here endeth the third chapter of the Acts of Kings.

CHAPTER IV.

THE NEW LAWGIVERS OF THE CITY APPOINTED BY THE KING. —
THE TYCOON TEACHETH THEM.

1. Now the third week of the third month, and the third day of the week, was the time appointed for the assembling of the lawgivers in the Temple of Justice, in order that they might sit in judgment against such malefactors as should be brought before them.

2. But, behold, the seats of the magistrates were yet empty, for the King, who cast out the rebellious lawgivers, had not yet pitched upon those whom it was ordained should sit in their stead.

3. Therefore, when this was told the King he made haste, and sent unto certain of the Northmen dwelling in the city, saying,

4. Ye are of the precious few who are adjudged altogether just, and loyal, and upright, and have respect unto the laws, and unto the high and mighty will of the King.

5. And ye are chosen out of the many to be my servants and lawgivers unto this people, because ye work not despite against the wards of the sacred Bureau, who are the Ethiopians.

6. Therefore, I, the King, than whom there is none greater in all the land, doth graciously command and commission you,

7. That ye straightway go up into the Temple and press the "woolsack," and sit in the vacant seats of the magistrates whose heads I have gathered, for henceforth ye are lawgivers.

8. And the chosen who heard this summons began each

to primp himself, and journeyed towards the Temple, saying,

9. Now I am a lawgiver in the city, and in the midst of mine enemies.

10. Albeit, certain of them changed their raiment, and made long-delayed ablutions, and put on clean linen, even a clean shirt; for they all were mightily puffed up because the King had chosen them.

11. And when they were come in unto the Temple, and were seated, they were dumb as oysters, and looked one unto the other, as much as to say,

12. Verily, here is a go. On whom shall we call that he may expound unto us the law and commandments, that we may be lawgivers indeed?

13. And with them sat Robert, surnamed Allen, who boasteth of many head of game cocks, and George, whose surname is Gilliam, who is a merchantman.

14. But, behold, they were all as babes; nor learned in the law; neither did they know anything.

15. And I, the Chronicler, heard the names of the new lawgivers unto whom was given the power to sit in the seats of the magistrates; and their surnames were Gregory, and Peebles, and Cammack, and Gaston, and Winne.

16. And it was asked of them that stood about the Temple, Who be these strange men that the King hath put over us to be our lawgivers?

17. But no man could tell, save one, surnamed Crowder, who made answer, wagging his head, and saying,

18. They whom you marvel upon are aliens, and of those who, in the days of the Great Rebellion, went out from the city between two suns, shaking off the dust of their shoes against it.

19. Or they are of those who came as strangers gleaning in the footsteps of the conquering King of the terrible Northmen.

20. Have ye not read that which was written by the prophets, and because your enemies are exalted over this people, know ye that the time of the fulfilment is even now and at hand.

21. And when all was made ready, the Scribe unto the magistrates, Andrew, surnamed Jenkins, who waiteth in the Temple, gave unto each of the new lawgivers the oath, even the iron-clad, which is very hard and difficult of digestion.

22. But, behold, they gulped it as though it were as much sweet bread and honey.

23. And because they were greedy, and not to be satisfied, they made request with one accord, saying,

24. Swear us yet once more, for we are loyal, and would be double proof against the machinations of the pettifoggers, who are as so many devils.

25. And the Scribe with an oath swear them yet a second time, even with a copper-fastened oath.

26. Then it came to pass, when the Scribe had made an end of swearing, that the Sergeant of the city, Thomas, surnamed Dudley, stood forth over against the seats of the lawgivers, and made proclamation in a loud voice, crying,

27. O-yez, O-yez, O-yez, all ye people who have petition to make unto the lawgivers draw nigh, give heed before them, and be silent in their presence.

28. And the lawgivers were made to quake, and trembled at the sound of the mighty voice of the Sergeant, but they uttered responses quickly, saying,

29. God save the King, and keep the kingdom.

30. And the Court was opened.

31. Then the lawgivers, who knew not anything, laid their heads together, and debated privately among themselves as to who of all the seven chosen was most worthy to be Recorder.

32. And they pitched upon George, whose surname is Gilliam, and him they made Recorder.

33. But Gilliam, though albeit a merchantman, cunning and apt at figures, was ignorant of the law to be expounded, and could not make choice between a law book and Comley's speller, or judge between spider tracks and the strange inscriptions upon a Hong Kong tea-chest.

34. And the new lawgivers, Gregory, and Peebles, and Cammack, and Gaston, and Gilliam, whom they had made Recorder, looked each upon the other steadfastly, as much as to say,

35. Here's a bloody go. Who shall teach us?

36. Now it came to pass furthermore, that the Tycoon of the city, who had sent the peace offering unto the King, was even then sitting in the Hall of primary justice, hard by, weighing out justice in broken doses to suit purchasers, and among them were many Ethiopians.

37. Be it known, moreover, that the Tycoon giveth good measure, but dippeth a *leetle*, peradventure, on the side that leaneth towards the King, because of the special order and the speckled purps.

38. And the new lawgivers, that knew not anything, humbled themselves, and sent in unto the Tycoon, saying,

39. Come, we pray you, and teach us, for we would be learned in the alphabet of the law, at least, or we shall be mocked and greatly cast down.

40. And the Tycoon heard the lamentation of the lawgivers, and his bowels of compassion yearned towards them, for he had of wisdom in his head enough and to spare.

41. So he went in unto the lawgivers, and took with him a book, even "Mayo's Guide."

42. And they were exceedingly glad that the Tycoon should teach them, for they were as suckling babes, and knew not anything.

43. Then the Tycoon stood forth in the midst of the lawgivers sitting at his feet, and taught them, expounding the

law as contained in the book that is the "Guide," which he himself had written.

44. But they were dull pupils, and poor receivers of the truth, and, as young beginners, they were hard of comprehension.

45. For to them the alphabet of the law was as stumbling-blocks in the way of blind men.

46. And the Tycoon was vastly put out, because he found the new lawgivers whom the king had appointed were less than babes, and knew not anything.

47. And he framed him his favorite expletive and gave sudden vent to the same in vehement anger, saying, aside,

48. Diablo! These lawgivers will hang the innocent and let go the guilty, and will put upon the good people the sins of the Ethiopians.

49. But the Tycoon durst not tell them so, for fear it should come unto the pricked ears of the King.

50. So the Tycoon kept his own counsel, and when he had made an end of teaching publicly, he gave unto each of the lawgivers an easy lesson, and also unto each of them a copy of the "Guide," saying,

51. Behold, this shall be your guide, for it is full of simple wisdom, so that a lawgiver though a fool need not err therein.

52. Then the Tycoon returned unto his own place and the lawgivers rose and went forth, for it was high noon, and lunch time.

53. Here endeth the fourth chapter of the Acts of the Kings, and of the Chronicles of the Lawgivers, the first lesson.

CHAPTER V.

THE TYCOON PRESENTETH THE KING WITH A COUPLE OF
"DORGS."

1. Now when the Tycoon of the city, whom the King had spared, nor included in his sacrifice of the lawgivers, saw that the King turned not the wrath of his countenance upon him,

2. He straightway cast about him for a peace offering to send unto the King.

3 For he would appease the anger of the King, that he might not take away from his servant the chief office of the city, even the office of Tycoon.

4. But the Tycoon was sorely puzzled as to what the device or thing should be, and he was at his wit's end.

5. Thus sorely perplexed and in great straits, the Tycoon sought for counsel among certain of his Mandarins, saying,

6. What would ye that I should send unto our ruler, the King, as a peace offering, even as a gift, that I may find favor in his eyes?

7. And they answered, Where are thy game cocks, those champions of the "pit," whose "gaffs" are sharper than the golden spurs upon the heel of the King himself?

8. Make decent speed then and send unto the King a brace of valiant birds, and they shall be an acceptable peace offering.

9. Then the Tycoon was speechless for the space of half a minute, for he remembered with grief that the ebony hand of the midnight spoiler had been busy among his brood, and that his gamesters had been gobbled.

10. And he questioned the Mandarins again: What

would ye that I should send unto the King as a peace offering?

11. And they answered, Mayhap the King loveth his tod, and parteth with his kingly favors for a little good wine.

12. Therefore, we pray you, command that there be sent unto the palace a puncheon of "Mountain Dew."

13. But the Tycoon would not, for it is not meet that the King should taste much wine, lest he drink until he be drunken.

14. And then would he rise up in his mighty wrath and devour the city, and all the people would be as shrimps upon his palate.

15. Then likewise were all the Mandarins at their wit's end, and wot not what manner of a gift the Tycoon should send unto the King for a peace offering.

16. And the Tycoon, even more perplexed than before, went into a brown study and methought himself, saying,

17. Let me see, let me see.

18. So into the brown study went they that were with him, the Mandarins, who gave counsel as to what manner of royal gift it should be, each unto himself saying,

19. Let me see, let me see.

20. And the countenance of the Tycoon, and the countenances of his Counsellors, were severally ruffled.

21. And when he had considered awhile, the Tycoon spake suddenly, saying, I know what I will do.

22. A certain man hath two dogs, — twin purps, — and they are beauties.

23. And there is none like unto them in all the city, for they came of a direct line from the spotted setter of New Kent.

24. Now I, the Tycoon of the Temple, shall send unto him that possesseth these purps, saying,

25. I beseech you, grant unto the Tycoon the one desire of his heart, and send by bearer the speckled purps, that I may make them a peace offering unto the King.

26. And the messenger went as he was bidden, and came with the speckled purps crying in a basket.

27. And the Tycoon and the Mandarins were beside themselves with joy when they saw the purps and heard them crying in the basket.

28. And the Tycoon commanded that they be put away privately, until such time as they could be sent to the King's palace with pomp and ceremony befitting the conveyance of a gift from the Tycoon to the King of the Province.

29. But, behold, it came to pass that a disaster befell the speckled purps, and one of them was stolen away by night time.

30. For certain of the people were mightily displeased that the Tycoon should make a peace offering to the King.

31. But the Tycoon was sore distressed, and sent out sharp, prying fellows, and went forth himself, whistling mournfully, and calling on the name of the lost one.

32. And they stumbled upon the missing purp—found him where he was not lost—hid away in a coal-hole.

33. And they that had the good luck to find him brought the purp that was lost in triumph into the presence of the Tycoon.

34. And they rejoiced together over the return of the prodigal purp that being lost was found again.

35. Albeit, the finder was liberally rewarded, and advanced a peg in the estimation of the Tycoon.

36. And it fell on a certain day that the speckled purps were sent unto the palace.

37. And the King received the gift graciously, and got down from his throne and sported on the floor with the speckled purps, saying,

38. This is a peace offering from the Tycoon, that I stir him not up with a "special order," as I have done the law-givers.

39. And Sef, whose surname is Chalfin, the King's sword and pen bearer, made chuckling answer, saying,

40. You bet ! which being interpreted, meaneth Just so.

41. Nevertheless, the King looked with favor upon the gift, and put forth his royal hand upon the heads of the purps, saying,

42. Aint they beauties?

43. And the purps made answer, and cried,

44. True, O King !

45. And the King was exceedingly pleased that a purp should answer him.

46. And the King swore by the great Red Dragon, and the seat of the Beast, and the Assembly of Radical Saints at Washington, that the Tycoon should not cease to rule in the city.

47. Because his peace offering is very acceptable, and for the sake of the purps will I turn away my wrath, and grant favor unto the Tycoon.

48. Here endeth the fifth chapter of the Acts of Kings.



CHAPTER VI.

THE KING APPOINTETH A NEW GOVERNOR OVER THE PROVINCE.

1. Now there was a certain man, and he dwelt in Fairmont, hard by the head-waters of the Kanawha, in a far-off corner of the Province.

2. And his name was Francis, but the people called him Plowpint, because, like the plough of the husbandman, he did run his nose against a very stubborn root.

3. And while the great Rebellion yet prevailed, Francis made himself Governor over the little bit of dominion that remained to him in that self-same far-off corner of the Province, and had under him servants and subjects less than a handful.

4. And they few were loyal; and they called themselves faithful and true, the rightful legislators and rulers in all the Province, which was then in Rebellion.

5. And Francis, that is, Plowpint, he called himself Governor over the whole Province, though possessing, albeit, but a little corner of it.

6. And the dynasty of the Rephbels at Richmond was the "so called."

7. Also, the extra Governor that was, Extra William, one of the Smiths, was "so called."

8. Moreover, the authority he exercised, and the judgments he executed, were "so called."

9. But when the gates of the Rebellion were broken down, and the chief city of the Rephbels fell, the Governor of the ten-acre corner of the Province spread himself.

10. And packed up, he and his servants, and packed off from Alexandria, and encompassed Richmond, each with his carpet-bag, quite a company of carpet-baggers.

11. And it came to pass that Francis, who is Plowpint, having spread himself, made himself Governor indeed over the whole Province, for the reign of the Kings was not yet begun.

12. So Francis was well seated, even before the King began to reign, and he dwelt in the goodly mansion on the Square.

13. Albeit Francis, in his dealings with the people, was not altogether on the square, but was crooked, peradventure, even as a stick is crooked.

14. And because his friends were few, and his servants were as a handful, he sought to make unto himself friends

from among the sons of Belial, who were in bondage, and did penance in atonement for the transgression of the laws.

15. And they that wrought penance apparelled in the striped livery of the prison-house, appointed for the custody and keeping of malefactors, were very many, for the thieves and murderers had nigh possessed the land.

16. Now, downright glad were these malefactors when it was told them that the compassionate Governor was moved towards them, and that the bowels of his tenderness yearned for their deliverance.

17. And they straightway began to make petition unto the compassionate Governor, saying,

18. Pardon us, that we may be clothed in the garments of citizenship again, and become the servants of the most merciful Governor, delving in the Radical vineyard, voting oftentimes as we have opportunity.

19. And he pardoned them, bestowing upon each the extreme unction of Executive clemency.

20. And the business waxed great, so that petitions multiplied, and the Executive hand was made very busy.

21. And the compassionate Governor said unto himself, I know what I will do.

22. I will make unto me a pardon-mill, and it shall be made to run by the power of greenbacks and the lubricating oil thereof.

23. So he, the compassionate Governor, built him a pardon-mill, and, behold, it ran upon the principle of perpetual motion.

24. And ceased not to run neither day nor night, because its secret and hidden springs were lubricated by the pleasant oil of greenbacks.

25. Now, therefore, because of the violent running of the pardon-mill, the prison-house wherein the malefactors were kept was well-nigh emptied, and the keepers quaked for their occupation.

26. But naturally enough the Radical vineyard was filled, and the new workers therein increased daily.

27. But the people despised the compassionate Governor, because he let loose the malefactors to prey upon them, and steal away their substance from smoke-house, and hen-roost, and kitchen.

28. Furthermore, they spat upon him and his authority ; for, said they, he is a malefactor himself, because he seeketh to make friends of the malefactors, who are the sons of Belial, that he may be strengthened in his seat.

29. Also, they who make up the newspapers, and send forth the flying sheets in the morning, railed against the Governor, and rebuked him, making game of him, and a bulletin of the pardons that flowed from his pardon-mill.

30. And they called him Plowpint, because he ran his nose against a stubborn root, and the malefactors that he pardoned, they called them Plowpint's pets.

31. But he pardoned yet the more, and ceased not to run his pardon-mill neither day nor night.

32. Now it came to pass that he who was Judge in the city, judging the malefactors, died, and was buried, greatly lamented by all the people, save the malefactors, who rejoiced.

33. For he was a good man, just and upright, and feared by the malefactors, because he had sent many of them to work penance in the prison-house as atonement for crimes.

34. And the King raised up one Burnham, a strange man, and made him Judge in the stead of that just and upright man.

35. But the new Judge knew not Plowpint ; neither would he hearken unto his counsels, when he complained that certain Ethiopians who were before him had been unjustly condemned.

36. And because he would not hearken, the Governor, who was pig-headed, and very perverse, ran the petitions

through his patent mill, and behold there came out two pardons.

37. And the pardons were bestowed on the malefactors, even before they became inmates of the prison-house, or had yet upon them the striped garments of humiliation.

38. Thereupon the Judge was wroth, and he went unto the King with complaint; and when the King had heard the complaint, he was likewise wroth.

39. So that they were very wroth together.

40. And they contrived a trap, fitted with a hair-trigger, in which to take the perverse and headstrong Governor.

41. Verily, they fixed a "dead-fall," beneath which they would smash him that calleth himself Governor, and is only Plowpint.

42. For, said they, he hath run his nose against a couple of exceedingly stubborn roots.

43. Now, the Governor had a cow, even a sacred cow, that grazed upon the sweet grass and herbs of the Square, yielding much delicious milk.

44. And in the morning, the Governor walked abroad upon the sanded walks of the Square.

45. And, behold, the cow lifted up her head and lowed mournfully after him.

46. And the Governor was troubled in his heart because of the lowing, for he knew that it was a token of disaster that was to come upon his house.

47. But as yet he wot not what it was that made shadow over him.

48. But upon his bed by night he dreamed, and in a vision he saw it all.

49. Therefore was he troubled afresh, and rose up very early in the morning, and went forth walking on the pleasant Square, hard by the mansion.

50. And the sacred cow that stood grazing lowed mourn-

fully yet again, and, when she had lowed thrice, she went to grass and continued to graze as before.

51. Then the Governor resolved in his soul and said, Surely will I defeat and bring to nought the machinations of the Judge and they who have set themselves against me, because disturbed by the grinding of my patent pardon-mill.

52. Now I know what I'll do. I will seek out and join myself unto those who are greater than mine enemies, who lay traps for my feet, who set snares to take me in, and a dead-fall to smash me.

53. And they who are greater than mine enemies shall remove the traps, and take away the snares, and derange the triggers of the dead-fall, and it shall not smash me.

54. So when evening was come, Francis, that is, Plowpint, journeyed, turning his face eastward, and came unto the seat of the Beast at Washington, and unto the Great Mogul.

55. Then the austere Judge, when it was told him that the Governor had gone out from the city in obedience to the mandate of his sacred cow, and was even then making petition before the Great Mogul, he ran in unto the King, crying,

56. Behold, the pig-headed and perverse Governor invoceth the help of the Mighty Mogul.

57. Now, therefore, strike quick, that he that pardoneth others may not be able to obtain a reprieve for himself.

58. And the King, chuckling, struck, and the trap fell, and Plowpint ceased to be Governor of the Province.

59. But the King had at his elbow a valiant young man, even Wells, who helped the Great Mogul to put the rebellion under the cloven hoofs of the Dragon.

60. Now Wells was a comely, well-behaved fellow, hating the Ethiopian for his stench, but loving him as a brother for his ballot, which is a precious jewel in his woolly crown.

61. For, said he, "the colored troops fought bravely" against the great rebellion, and put many Rephbels to death.

62. And him, Wells, the King caused to be proclaimed Governor, even Governor *ad interim*, until such time as the people of the Province should make choice.

63. For, said the King, there is truth in Wells, and in none other have I found truth, for it is a very rare ingredient.

64. And Plowpint, that is no more Governor, returned ; yet was he ignorant of that which had been done in his absence, and knew not that the trap had fallen, and that his head had been gathered.

65. But they who were of his household, his man Friday, that is, Lewis, and certain of his “ pets,” met him, and fell at his feet, crying,

66. O most compassionate Governor that was, thou in-whom our souls delighted because of thy pardon-mill, thou art no longer Governor, for the King hath affixed an ✂ to thy commission.

67. So Plowpint knew by the ✂ that he was an Ex-Governor, and an “ out.”

68. And thereupon he turned about straightway, nor tarried so much as to change his shirt, but streaked it fast through the darkness, back to the seat of the Beast and the Great Mogul once more.

69. And there were those of the Latter Day Saints who followed galloping upon his twinkling heels, — not that they cared for him who was branded with the ✂, but because they had hoped to be Governor themselves.

70. And among them that galloped fast and furious after Plowpint, tearing their robes, was Hawxhurst, the grizzly bear, and Bayne, the woolly ape, for they both would be Governor.

71. And after them, upon the same trail, went flying certain of the tribe of Hunnicutt, who is High Priest, and would also be Governor.

72. But after all went the advocates of the new Governor,

that is, Wells, and among them went Sharp, who espoused the sister of the Great Mogul.

73. And because he was Sharp, and the near kinsman of the Mighty Mogul, the cake prepared by the enemies of the new Governor became all dough.

74. And they saw that their cake was dough, and returned each sadly, as though he had been to a funeral.

75. And it came to pass speedily that Wells was anointed Governor over the Province, and he dwelleth in the pleasant mansion on the Square.

76. And he that was Governor goeth in and out no more ; neither doth the sacred cow crop the sweet grass and herbs of the Square, lowing at the sight of him that late walked therein.

77. So, too, the noise of the grinding hath ceased, for the patent pardon-mill hath been choked with an injunction.

78. Here endeth the sixth chapter of the chronicles of the Acts of Kings, and the mortification of the Saints.



CHAPTER VII.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLACE.—THE ELECT COMPLAINETH AGAINST
THE KING BECAUSE HE HATH NOT REMEMBERED THEM.

1. Hear, O ye disconsolate, and give ear unto the further interpretation of the Chronicles.

2. For the mighty King, who hath put upon us the plagues of his invention, is himself troubled and plagued with an exceeding grievous plague.

3. And the purple curtains of his palace are drawn to-

gether, that his royal chamber may be darkened, for the King taketh no more pleasure in the light of the sun.

4. For behold the household of Schofield is divided, the happy family is disturbed, and there is no more peace but great dissension in the select congregation of the Latter Day Saints.

5. Therefore have the Saints gone forth railing against the King in the streets, standing upon the corners thereof, hard by Morrissey's grocery, and saying,

6. The King anointed hath made barter and sale of himself, and deceived the Assembly of Radical Saints at Washington, which is the seat of the Beast and the Great Mogul, who is Ulysses, and holdeth the sword.

7. Inasmuch as he hath caused his heart to incline towards the Rephphels, who are the "ins," and turneth a deaf ear to the petitions of the "outs," who are of ourselves, and altogether loyal.

8. Yea, in his bestowal of gifts and the wholesome pap of office, the King hath remembered them that in the Great Rebellion were arrayed against us, and against the "flag," even the "Johnnies."

9. And hath refused to make place and appointment, and brew pleasant pap to feed unto us who were truly loyal, and worshipped the Beast.

10. So it came to pass that the Saints murmured, and the Ethiopians murmured with the Saints, against the King, for they, too, had great expectations, which were come to naught.

11. And they plotted together against the anointed, even Schofield, and gathered together in Morrissey's grocery quite a multitude.

12. Now Morrissey, who is a Phaddee, loveth not the "nagur," but because the Ethiopians are many, he clingeth to their skirts that his feet, even the feet of the "bog-

trotter" may be lifted out of the bog, and planted high and dry in a good place.

13. Therefore he, Morrissey, the Phaddee, made entertainment for the Saints, and they that were with them.

14. And because the other was drained he tapped a new barrel, even a barrel of uncircumcised whiskey, and sat before them the little drinking cups, about the size of the brass thimbles of the sewing women.

15. And the Saints were in the spirit on that day, and gave great praise unto Morrissey, who kept the jug, and replenished the cups, saying,

16. There is none like unto Morrissey, the Phaddee, for he keepeth a score, hath faith in the honesty of the Saints, and giveth credit to the Ethiopians.

17. And the spirits that mingled in the cups entered into the Saints, and because the spirit were villanous they became as villains, every one plotting villanous things.

18. And instead of toasting, as was their wont, they drank confusion to the King and to his dynasty, and stirred each up the other, until they were all stirred up, even to a very high pitch.

19. And among them stood Danner, sometimes called Alphabetical Danner, a Teuton, and the least of the pettifoggers, and John, surnamed Van Lew, who boasteth himself because of much loyalty, and one Wigand, who is the man-milliner, and fulfilleth the mission of a woman.

20. But they were all of one accord touching the thing to be done, and communed together as they who plot harmoniously in a corner, spitting into each other's ears, and saying,

21. The King hath betrayed us, and deceived the Assembly of Radical Saints, and the Great Mogul who keepeth the sword.

22. Now, therefore, will we make tumult, and send embassy unto the seat of the Beast, that is at Washington, and

unto the Assembly and the Great Mogul who hath the sword.

23. And the embassy shall encompass the Assembly, and the Great Mogul who hath the sword, saying,

24. Behold, the King, even Schofield, whom you anointed and sat up to be King over the first Province, is janus-faced, and looketh two ways.

25. And playeth into the hands of the lukewarm and half-way men, while he giveth the cold shoulder of his royal bounty to us, who bear the mark of the Beast upon our foreheads.

26. Hearken, therefore, we beseech you, O Almighty Mogul who beareth the sword, and cause its terrible blade to flash abroad, and strike off the head of the truculent King that he may no longer reign over the Province.

27. And raise up ~~us to~~ us another King, even a King with an iron hand, like unto Philip, who is Sheridan, and Dan, who is Sickles, and anoint him to reign over the first Province, in the stead of the janus-faced King, whose triple crown ye shall take and bestow upon his successor.

28. Who, in like manner, shall cut off the heads of those who hold place in the Province and pass-keys to the "crib," and shall bestow those places and pass-keys upon us who are the Saints, faithful among the faithless, and yearning each after a teat that shall yield us the public pap.

29. Albeit, the Saints reckoned without their host.

30. And because of the Phaddees' whiskey, which was villanous, the Saints, in council, made hasty resolve, and determined to send an embassy to Washington and the Great Mogul.

31. But filled with the spirit, and each preferring himself before the other, they disputed as to who was greatest among them, and worthy to go upon the embassy, and utter complaint before the Great Mogul.

32. So they drew lots, and the lots fell upon Danner, the

pettifogger, and Morrissey, the Phaddee, and Van Lew, the boaster, and Wigand, the man-milliner.

33. And Danner, the Teuton, him they made chief of the embassy, that he should be its spokesman ; for, as the least of the pettifoggers, he possessed the gift of gab, and was not afraid of a lie.

34. And it came to pass when each of the embassy had equipped himself with a clean collar, and a little of the Phaddee's elixir of everlasting life, that they journeyed eastward, even toward Washington, and the place of the Great Mogul.

35. And when they had come unto Acquia, which is a creek, they took shipping, and sailed upon the river Potomac, that runs hard by, and washes the seat of the Beast.

36. When the morning was fully come, they who were of the embassy stood forth together upon the ship at the landing, and looked eastward, and lo ! the city of muddy yet magnificent distances lay beyond them, lifting out of the waters.

37. And in the risen sun the great Temple of the Assembly of Radical Saints shone in brass and burnished marble, exceedingly white, and beautiful to look upon.

38. And the dome thereof seemed lifted exultingly, and hung midway between the heaven and the earth.

39. But a great smoke ascending, wrought clouds above the Temple, and the place of the Great Mogul.

40. Whereupon the embassy was troubled, and had recourse to the elixir of life everlasting ; for, said they,

41. Behold, the Great Mogul, toward whom we journey, indulgeth, and smoketh his after-breakfast cigar.

42. And when they had landed, and were come unto an inn, and had purified and refreshed and girded their loins anew, they set forth walking on the Avenue.

43. And it did happen, as luck would have it, that Burnham, whose surname is Wardwell (called the "cool, icy

man," because he maketh the people to keep cool), was already in the city, having journeyed thither about his own business.

44. But when he saw the embassy walking towards the Temple, he knew them that they were brethren, for himself was a Saint.

45. And straightway he made haste and ran, and joined himself unto them.

46. And fell on the necks of each of them, — Danner, and Morrissey, and Van Lew, and Wigand, — and kissed them, saying,

47. O brothers, how fares it with you, and whyfore have ye made the pilgrimage unto the Yankee Jerusalem, and the seat of the Great Mogul?

48. Then they told him all that had been done, and how they were come with grievous petition and complaint against the King.

49. Now when Wardwell, who is an astute man, heard of all these things, he was not overmuch pleased, for he was loth to appear among the embassy before the Great Mogul in an accusation against the King.

50. Nevertheless, they constrained him, and him they made spokesman and interpreter in the stead of Danner, the pettifogger, because of his acquaintance with the Beast, that is Butler, and his knowledge of the ropes.

51. And Burney, that is Wardwell, led up the embassy unto the shining Temple, and into the midst of the Assembly of Radical Saints.

52. Who, even at that self-same hour, were sitting in high court of impeachment upon one Andrew, surnamed Johnson, because he saith he is Chief in the nation, and claimeth to be greater than the Almighty Mogul, who beareth the sword, and filleth the city with the smoke of many fine cigars.

53. And they of the embassy were speechless, and dis-

posed to sing small in the presence of the greater Saints, who were Saints from the beginning, and whose names filled the whole earth.

54. For, compared to them, they were as pigmies walking between the legs of giants, or as green grasshoppers in the sight of mighty eagles.

55. But, behold, the great ones of the Assembly made themselves little and the equals of the ambassadors, and hearkened unto their complaints, and patted them on the head until they squirmed like eels, making much of them.

56. Likewise called they them Bully Boys, and dismissed them with a letter to the Great Mogul, that they might go into his presence with good grace and countenance.

57. And the ambassadors went their way, bowing themselves out of the Temple, and with them Wardwell, bearing the letter, sealed with the great red seal of the Dragon.

58. But as they went and drew nigh unto the quarters of the Great Mogul, their hearts severally began to fail them, and became as water in their bosoms.

59. And they would have turned back and given over their mission, but Wardwell, who kept his courage, was bold as a sheep, and spurred them as with a goad.

60. Courage, brothers, the Great Mogul hath broken his fast, and like the boa that hath gorged himself, he will not rise up and eat us for a little relish.

61. And they went in, the ambassadors, and it came to pass that when they lifted up their eyes and saw the Great Mogul, behold he was smoking his sixth cigar, heels over head, and reclining at an angle of forty-five degrees.

62. And because the Great Mogul had magnified himself in the eyes of the ambassadors, the Havana that he puffed exceeded in size the mainmast of a very great ship, or a columbiad, and the rowels upon his spurs were of the circumference of the paddle-wheels that move the ship.

63. And the smoke that issued out of his mouth, and

helped the clouds of the heavens, was as the smoke of ten thousand wigwams at cooking-time, or as the smoke of several furnaces in full blast, or as the smoke of Vesuvius in high play, so great and terrible was that smoke.

64. And the ambassadors, in mighty fear that came upon them suddenly, like the colic, did liken the recumbent Mogul unto the statue of the sleeping Buddha when he stretcheth himself out for his *siesta* of a thousand ages.

65. In good faith the Great Mogul dozed the least bit, peradventure, with one eye open, and his hand upon the handle of his sword.

66. And his sword was as the sword of the giant that went out to "fence" with Goliah; for in all the world there was never so terrible and mighty a sword.

67. For fashioned cunningly and two-edged, it cutteth backward and forward in the hands of a strong man, and cleaveth through the Constitution and the laws, and is stayed only at the throat of the Chief Magistrate of the universal nation.

68. Moreover, the SWORD hath become the political scissors that cutteth out and shapeth the law.

69. For know ye that henceforth, until the coming of the third flood, which is foretold, the SWORD is the law.

70. Now, when it was told the Mogul, that mighty man who holdeth the sword, that an embassy bore a complaint concerning the King of the First Province, he rose up on end, and it was as though a great tree had arisen in its place, and cast its shadow on them that were underneath.

71. And the ashes that fell from his cigar the ambassadors and servants made haste to gather, and, stooping down, they took it up and put it upon their heads, and bowed themselves exceeding low, after the fashion of the Japs in the presence of the Micado.

72. And when he had fired upon his seventh cigar, and the incense of tobacco burning had lifted somewhat, he took

the letter, and read the writing that the ambassadors had brought as a greeting from the Assembly of Radical Saints at the Temple.

73. But, because the Great Mogul ceased not to smoke, he enveloped himself in clouds as in a garment, and the ambassadors saw not his face.

74. And the seventh cigar was consumed before he had ceased to ruminate upon the writing, and the Mogul proceeded with another, even an eighth cigar.

75. Nor offered he any to the ambassadors, presenting his case, and saying,

76. Take a cigar?

77. Howsomever, when the eighth cigar was, in like manner, exhaled, and he had knocked the sacred ashes into a silver tray, the Mogul cast the stump from him into the spittoon.

78. Then behold, Morrissey, the Phaddee, went for it, and plucked the stump from the slime, and bestowed it upon himself, saying,

79. Eureka! This shall be a fragrant *souvenir* of the Great Mogul.

80. And the ambassadors opened straightway their budget, and made known their grievances concerning the King of the Province, who is Schofield, laying them at the feet of the Great Mogul.

81. And the mighty Mogul made answer, and it was as though the seven thunders had uttered their voices, or an earthquake had stamped its foot, impatient of the time.

82. And the lightning that runneth to and fro on wires caught up the voice of the Great Mogul, and flashed its import to the uttermost parts of the earth, and to the great cities therein.

83. And even while he was yet speaking, it was told in New York, and in the city of the Seven Hills.

84. Behold, the Great Mogul hath spoken, and the King

of Kings, who beareth the supreme sword, maketh ready to cut off the head of a truculent King, that is under him, and bestow his crown upon another.

85. Now, therefore, were the ambassadors well pleased, and, going out from the presence of the Great Mogul without the anticipated flea in ear, they each turned a flip-flap, and danced the *Juba* to the patting of Morrissey, the Phaddee.

86. And as they had journeyed eastward, so they turned again unto the southward, and returned unto the Province and the city wherein they dwelt.

87. But the Mogul, who is King of the five Kings, wrote unto the King of the first Province, who is Schofield, and sent the writing unto him by a chosen messenger of his military household, saying,

88. Be not concerned because of the ambassadors, for they are busy-bodies, tale-bearers, meddlesome, tattling, and envious.

89. And, behold, I have seasoned their sayings with a wholesome allowance of salt.

90. Therefore the King liveth, and hath not ceased to reign.

91. Here endeth the seventh chapter of the Acts of Kings, and the testimony of the patience of the Saints.

CHAPTER VIII.

A LAMENTATION BECAUSE OF THE KING, WHO STIRRETH UP THE CITY WITH A GENERAL ORDER.

1. Woe, woe, woe ! Woe unto the city of the Seven Hills, and the inhabitants thereof, because of the things that are yet to come to pass.

2. Woe unto her high places, and them that are in them ; unto her tabernacles, and they that go in and out.

3. Woe unto her chosen servants, her counsellors, and they who have the keeping of the city, who hold the keys, and bear the staves of authority.

4. For the time cometh, and is even now, when the King strengtheneth his hold, and taketh a new grip upon the throats of this people.

5. And herein is the yet further fulfilment of the Radical Talmud, and that which was foretold by the prophets and soothsayers :

6. Behold, they shall take away thine inheritance, and bestow it upon aliens ; and strangers shall fill thy high places, bearing the keys of the city, and the staves of authority.

7. And ye who are of the city indeed shall become as strangers in the midst of it, walking humbly in familiar places, even as those who have neither part nor lot in anything.

8. Therefore hearken unto the continuance of the sorrowful chronicles, that the Acts of the King may be further recorded.

9. Now it came to pass that on the first day of the new month, even All Fool's Day, the King made yet another proclamation, and stirred up the city with a general order.

10. And the city was mightily stirred up because of the

order, for, verily, it was very sweeping, like unto a new broom, sweeping out the pleasant places of the city.

11. And they that held office and were the servants of the city, were sore amazed, and said one unto the other, Who shall be able to stand?

12. Behold, the King prepareth to comb the city with a fine-tooth comb, and setteth an exceedingly fine net through which the minnows only shall escape.

13. And John, surnamed Knowles, who keepeth the gas metre, and Julius, surnamed Hobson, who gathereth the taxes, and all who held pleasant places in the Temple, gathered together, consoling one with the other, saying,

14. The hour cometh, and in a little while we who are the "ins" shall be the "outs," for they who are the "outs," but desire to be the "ins," have triumphed.

15. Therefore let us console together.

16. And they consoled together straightway in a little whiskey plain.

17. But the Counsellors, called the City Fathers, because they rule in the city, were even yet more cast down.

18. For it had gone forth that the King even then prepared to make their places empty and void.

19. And they came together in the pleasant Council Chamber at the Temple, looking very grave.

20. And among them was Macfarland, that is Apollo, and Epps, who is Vulcan, and Saunders, who went upon the bond of the king's brother, whom they had anointed to be city assessor.

21. And likewise, they, the Counsellors, consoled together in a little whiskey plain, saying,

22. The hour cometh, and in a little while we who are the "ins" shall be the "outs," for they who are the "outs," but desire to be the "ins," have triumphed.

23. And the Counsellors sent for the Tycoon, and he came

out of his chamber into the Council Hall, and consoled with them.

24. Albeit, the Tycoon was easy in his slippers, because of the speckled purps that had found him favor in the eyes of the King, and the slaughtered deer he had brought out of the wilderness of New Kent, and added unto his peace offering.

25. And the Chief of the Mandarins, John, surnamed Poe, who fought in the great Rebellion, and the twelve Captains of Mandarins who are under him, gathered together in the watch-towers of the city.

26. And their countenances were blue, even as their garments were blue.

27. Likewise they consoled together, the Chief with his Captains, and the Captains with one another, saying,

28. The hour cometh, and in a little while we who are the "ins" shall be the "outs," for those who are the "outs," but desire to be the "ins," have triumphed.

29. And the watchmen of the city, who are the Mandarins, went upon their beats, and about the streets in the night-time, rapping with their staves one unto the other mournfully, and saying,

30. Alas ! for the city of the Seven Hills, and for the peaceful dwellers therein, when the staves of authority that we now bear are delivered into the hands of the conspirators, who are our enemies.

31. When the thieves, and evil-doers, and workers of iniquity shall pin upon their garments the badge of the city's Mandarins, to watch upon the streets and in her towers.

32. For the hour cometh, and we who are the "ins" shall be the "outs," for they who are the "outs," but desire to be the "ins," have triumphed.

33. And the elect, who are to be the new servants of the city, filling the pleasant places thereof, heard the lamentations of them to whom the hour cometh, and is even now.

34. And they mocked them, saying,

35. Who now shall hold the keys and bear the staves of authority and the maces of the Mandarins?

36. And partake of the pleasant "pap" of office ruling in the high places of the city?

37. Here endeth the eighth chapter of the Acts of Kings, and the lamentations of the servants of the city.



CHAPTER IX.

THE KING REMOVETH THE TYCOON AND APPOINTETH ANOTHER, EVEN A SECOND TYCOON.—A NEW KING REIGNETH OVER THE PROVINCE.

1. Here beginneth the New Testament of the Acts of Kings, because he who was late King, that is, Schofield, hath ceased to rule in the Province. Selah!

2. But that which hath been written of the first King shall stand; for, behold, he was a bruiser in his way, and after his own fashion. Selah!

3. For, being King, even above Andy, who sitteth in the White House at Washington, he reigned over the Province, and worked his own good will and pleasure.

4. And the Assembly of Saints was in accord with the King, as also was the Great Mogul, that is, Grant, and being in accord, the King, who hath late passed his crown and sceptre unto another, ruled the Province with a rod of iron.

5. And because he was over-persuaded by the carpet-baggers and scalawags, strange men who had swelled in importance and been greatly puffed up and magnified by the rul-

ing of the King, he gave place to them each according to his deserts.

6. And because the King, that is, Schofield, was in accord with them that rule, he was sore beset by the army of the carpet-baggers and scalawags, a great host, such as no man could number, even greater in number than the sands upon the seashore.

7. And they cried unto the King, saying, Give us place, that we may deliver the Province into the possession of the Negro, for he is a lever that shall be a power in our hands.

8. So the King hearkened unto the petition of the carpet-baggers and scalawags, and made place for them.

9. And he took the Tycoon, that is, Mayo, and held him over a very great precipice, saying,

10. O Tycoon ! unless thou swearest by all the oaths that shall be hidden thee, behold thy official blood be upon thine own head.

11. But the Tycoon was loathe to swear, for he had sworn over-much in times past.

12. Then the King, mighty of arm, shook the Tycoon yet once more over the mighty precipice.

13. And the Tycoon bethought himself of the speckled purps, and the goodly haunch of venison with which he had sent greeting unto the King.

14. Moreover, he jogged the remembrance of the King ; but the King was deaf ; for, behold, the purps had been stolen away, and the venison served upon the King's table.

15. Therefore there remained nothing more for the Tycoon.

16. And when the King had shaken the Tycoon once more above the horrible precipice, he loosened his hold, and the Tycoon fell.

17. And the fall was like unto a great rock cast into the sea ; for the Tycoon had been long in office, and there was none to take the place out of his hands.

18. Likewise the King, who held the Province like a pebble in a sling, removed every man out of his place, until there was none who could say,

19. Behold, I am a servant of the city, chosen by the people thereof.

20. Howsomever, the King exalted one George, surnamed Chahoon, a carpet-bagger, to be Tycoon in the stead of the Tycoon whom he had cast down.

21. And Chahoon was crowned Tycoon the Second, and upon him was bestowed the two swords that are the badge of the Tycoon ruling in the city.

22. So, armed with the two swords, the new Tycoon began to lay about him, slaying whomsoever it pleased him to slay.

23. But it came to pass that the Select of the General Assembly of Radical Saints who sat in judgment against the Chief Ruler of the nation, that is, Andy, surnamed Johnson, failed.

24. And because they failed to move the Chief Ruler out of his seat, the Select of the Radical Assembly, like men in dire straits, came suddenly to their wits' end.

25. And the Great Mogul, Grant, who smoketh continually, and seeketh the seat of the Chief Ruler, being privy to all that was done, smoked yet the more, for he was wroth as a bear because the Select Assembly had failed to make vacant the seat of the Chief Ruler.

26. But Benjamin, surnamed Wade, who would have succeeded to the high place for a little season, gnawed his tongue, even as a man in a fit gnaweth his tongue, or a rat a file.

27. Nevertheless, the people rejoiced, and made great ado, with the noise of music and cannon, and great shouting, as they who rejoice when the plague hath passed them by and left no dead in their habitations.

28. Then Stanton, that is, Satan, that old serpent of the

War Office, who had defied the Chief Ruler, when it came to his ears, coiled up his tail, even as an adder coileth up her tail, and glided away.

29. So the War Office was made very desolate, for there was no more Stanton.

30. Even his *ad interim*, Thomas, fought shy of the seat, lest, peradventure, the serpent coil about his neck, and seduce him with a kiss and a glass of whiskey straight.

31. But the Chief Ruler who held his seat, plucking up courage, ruminated as to whom he should send to sit in the easy-chair of Stanton, who had left his lair, even as an envenomed serpent that glideth away.

32. And he hit upon Schofield, King of the First Province ; for he knew that the people of the Province had been mightily put upon by Schofield, and would be glad to be ridden of his rule.

33. So the Chief Ruler did a smart thing, and sent unto the Select Assembly the name of Schofield, to the end that he might be confirmed Secretary of War, instead of Stanton.

34. Then the Select took counsel together, and anointed Schofield ; for, said they, He is one of us, and we will yet circumvent the traitor of the White House.

35. And when the news was brought to King Schofield at Richmond, he laid aside his triple crown and went up to Washington, the seat of the Radical Beast.

36. And it came to pass that when he had smoked a cigar with the Great Mogul, it was arranged who it was that should succeed him, and wear the triple crown he had laid aside.

37. And the Chief Ruler, who was yet not wholly easy in his official shoes, pitched upon one George, surnamed Stoneman, and him they declared, by proclamation, to be ruler over the First Province, instead of the first King.

38. Now Stoneman was a mighty man against the Rebellion, and spoiled the Rephphels muchly, raiding at the head of many valiant horsemen.

39. Albeit he was very terrible, riding nigh up unto the city over which he is now appointed to reign, laying waste much good heritage, ravishing and destroying, and bearing away many of the people thereof into captivity.

40. And the new King came ; and behold, there were none to receive him and make much over him save Wells, who is Governour, and Bond, who taketh fees of the bankrupts, and others of the baser sort.

41. But the people who are truly of the city went each into his own house, and shut the doors that they might not look upon the face of the new King.

42. For, said they, Peradventure, we have swapped the devil for a witch.

43. Now the acts of the new King who hath been raised up to rule over this Province are not yet made manifest.

44. But whether they be good or whether they be evil, behold, they shall all be found written in the new Chronicles of the Acts of Kings of which this is the beginning.

45. Here endeth the Chronicles of the Acts of the first King, and beginneth the Chronicles of the new King.



CHAPTER X.

THE KING MOVETH A PEG OR TWO. —BUT FERLETH HIS WAY
WARILY.

1. Hearken unto the new revelations, for of a verity they are the truth, and as the truth they shall appear, when all the things written herein shall have come to pass.

2. For the new King is an austere man, very resentful reaping where he hath not sown.

3. Now the King being newly come unto the city, he was fresh in his office, and moved as one that steppeth upon eggs, fearful that he might step upon and crush the best of them.

4. Therefore he was wary, and hardly moved a peg.

5. But he was hardly cool in his seat, the King, before a message was brought unto him from him who was late King, but who had given away his triple crown unto another, that is, Stoneman.

6. Now, when they that proclaim the tidings gathered from the streets of the city, and from the four corners of the earth, and sent forth the flying sheets in the morning, heard of this message, they sounded the praises of the late King, and straightway made eulogium upon him that reigned in his stead.

7. For, said they, we are as weak lambs between two lions; and while the one that is gone may return and rend us, the other that is with us may stay and devour us.

8. Therefore they fed both with compliments, even as a man who, finding no shelter, seeketh to make peace with two ravenous beasts of prey, that lick their chops and hanker after his own innocent blood.

9. But Stoneman, who is King, for shame's sake, would have made him a new pattern, even a new yoke, with which to yoke the rebellious people of the Province.

10. For, said he, the yoke of the late King is as a velvet cord upon the shoulders of this stiff-necked and rebellious people.

11. Therefore will I execute a new yoke, even a yoke of withes and thorns, armed with an iron goad, that shall prick them up, even as oxen that are harnessed to a loyal drag.

12. And because the King remembered how when the Rephels prevailed, and he coming against them with horsemen, was chased and set at naught, he resolved in his heart to take vengeance upon such of the Rephels who had put off

their armor and remained in the city, each going about his own business.

13. And Stoneman, because he was in the midst of them, the Rephbels who had chased him aforetimes, caused his wrath to burn against them.

14. Albeit, he shook in his shoes, even as a man shaketh in his shoes who is stricken with palsy.

15. For he feared the Ku-Klux.

16. Thereupon the King sent in great haste for certain of the household of Schofield, young men of fine feathers, who fattened upon beer, saying,

17. How fared your lord and King, and feared he the Ku-Klux?

18. And the young men, who were trusty and strong, and bore the shield and weapons of war, told the King all, nor kept back anything.

19. Therefore, when the King had hearkened unto them, he was silent for a space, and an exceeding great fear fell upon him, even as a spring ague falleth upon a fellow without warning or a preliminary chill.

20. And his spirit went out of him and hovered apart, until recalled by a little Mountain Dew, which is a spirit of itself, very agreeable, and not hard to take.

21. But, in the space of half an hour, the King was himself again, and spake :

22. A new broom sweepeth clean ; I will confound the proverb, and strike down no more of the cobwebs that these Rephbels have builded.

23. Neither will I add another bow-knot to the garland about their necks, lest they turn upon me and double the cord about mine own throat.

24. Now, when all these things came to the unwaxed ears of the carpet-baggers and scalawags, they who wait in the porch of the office and about the healing pool, they were greatly concerned.

25. So much so, that they made deputation unto the King ; and Danner, who is called Alphabetical Danner, stood up as spokesman, for he was greatest among them all.

26. And made speech unto the King, like unto the German text, railing against them that were yet in place, because of the lukewarmness of the late King, who had stayed his hand and failed to move them out of the pleasant places that yield much loyal pap.

27. But Danner, who is a pettifogger, lacketh weight, and because he fought on both sides of the rebellion, straddling the fence, his speech fell flat as beer drawn over night.

28. So the King was not moved, neither were his Counselors, who were with him.

29. But the King, anxious to be firmly seated before the Ku-Klux should be upon him, like a hawk upon a sparrow that hath tormented him, went in unto and habitated the chambers of Schofield, even the pleasant mansion that was once on a time the habitation of Jefferson, surnamed Davis, who was Chief Ruler in the Confederacy.

30. So that habitation being made desolate, as the Scriptures foretold, the same is given over to Yankee owls and bats, to browse and brood therein.

31. Peradventure, the King is haunted by the gray apparition of a Rephbel at the door.

32. Maybe he awaiteth his orders, as the gray orderly of the olden time awaited the orders of him who was chief among us.

33. Doth the King dream? Behold, I will flirt a banner about his head, with the gleam of eleven stars and sundry bars.

34. Hath the King an ear for music? Behold, I will breathe into his ear the dulcet notes from an unseen instrument, and the breathings shall be of the South land and Southern men.

35. Will the King awake?

36. Behold, he waketh and readeth aright the sign written in letters that dissolve one by one, gathered by an unseen hand, that seemeth dead, but yet hath life.

37. Liberty of God is born, and never dies; what God hath written no man is worthy to blot out.

38. Here endeth the second chapter of the New Testament of the Acts of Kings, being the Chronicles of the deeds of the Second King.



CHAPTER XI.

THE TYCOON PURGETH THE MANDARINS, AND GATHERETH
THE HEADS OF THEM THAT ARE DISLOYAL.

1. Now the second Tycoon, that is, Chahoon, the carpet-bagger, reigned over the city; but the second King, that is, George, called Stoneman, was above the Tycoon, and held the sceptre of the Province.

2. And the Mandarins who were under the Tycoon, and who had been of the Rephbels, were an eyesore in the sight of the Tycoon.

3. For he was very loyal and a carpet-bagger, and had many friends among the tribes of carpet-baggers and scalawags with whom he sought to strengthen his hands.

4. But, behold, it was not easy to find accusation against these Mandarins who were eyesores in the sight of the Tycoon, for they had each been very faithful in his office, watching upon the streets and keeping the city.

5. So the Tycoon gave the cue to certain of the scalawags who dwelt in the city, and they straightway began to bring accusation.

6. Against the Mandarins who were faithful, and against the Chief of Mandarins, John, surnamed Poe, who had been a mighty man in the Rebellion.

7. And they cried out against him, saying,

8. This man was a little giant among the Rephbls, and led them out in the battalion to fight against the armies of the loyal coming from the North.

9. Likewise were accusations brought against many others of the Mandarins who, in the years of the great Rebellion, had warred with gun against the Northmen, or spoken with tongue against the King anointed, and the Assembly of Radical Saints.

10. For to have put on a gray garment in those days was a sin against loyalty not to be forgiven.

11. Moreover, to have fasted or feasted with a Rephbel in those days was a sin.

12. Also to have whistled Dixie, very softly even, was a sin.

13. Yea, verily, are they not the unpardonable sins decreed in the Talmud of Radical faith, and the Scriptures of the truly loyal?

1. Now, when the Tycoon had hearkened unto the accusations of the scalawags, uttered against the Mandarins, he went into a brown study.

15. For he was troubled, and knew not upon what pretence or excuse to gather the heads of the Mandarins, because he feared a tumult among the people.

16. For the Mandarins were faithful, keeping the peace and property of the city for many years, watching upon the streets both day and night, rapping good cheer one unto the other.

17. Now, the seventh day of the sixth month was very warm, even the beginning of the heated term, and, for fear the sun might smite him, the King kept his chamber, a wet turban about his head.

18. And a lackey in blue ever waited before him, waving a fan of turkey tail, and anon mixing juleps of Bourbon, gurgling ice, and aromatic mint.

19. And he moved not a peg.

20. But the Tycoon had the ear of the King, and he went in unto him burdened with his accusations against the Mandarins.

21. And Eaton, his Scribe, was with him, and bear the records.

22. And it came to pass that it was agreed between them, the King and the Tycoon, that the King should turn away his face and seem not to behold the deeds done by the Tycoon.

23. For was he not chief in his place, ruling in the city even as the King ruled in the Province?

24. So the Tycoon winked and went out, and returned to his own Temple in the market-place, hard by Chimborazo Hill.

25. Then the Scribe of the Tycoon, cunning and quick with the pen, wrote and sent messages unto certain of the Mandarins who had been selected for sacrifice, saying,

26. Confusion unto you, and thus sayeth the Tycoon :

27. Because ye were Rephels and have not repented nor become scalawags, behold, your office, its mace, its honors and emoluments, are taken away from you, that you may no more be officers of mine.

28. And behold, your office, its mace, its honors and emoluments, are given unto others, those that are scalawags, who have eaten their peck of Radical dirt and crawled on their bellies before the Tycoon.

29. And when the decree had gone forth, there was a noise of shouting abroad in the city, and the scalawags cried with one accord,

30. O Tycoon, live forever !

31. And the Ethiopians who hoped to have given unto

them the freedom of the city caught up the shout and cried,

32. O Tycoon, live forever and a day !

33. Straightway the Tycoon, feeling himself strengthened, drew his two swords and cut off the heads of Mandarins nearly twoscore.

34. Now, when the Chief of the Mandarins, that is Poe, saw that the Tycoon had gathered of the heads of his favorite Mandarins nearly twoscore, he made complaint unto the Tycoon, saying,

35. Wherefore, O Tycoon, am I not accounted equally guilty with them whose heads thou hast gathered ?

36. Therefore, I pray you, take off my head also, that I too may die the death of the faithful, lest peradventure the stain of the scalawag rest upon me.

37. But the Tycoon would not gather the head of the Chief of the Mandarins, though he bowed his neck to the sword.

38. Then behold the Chief, disconsolate because of the slain, would have died by hari-kari, but was restrained.

39. Now, about this time, it came swiftly to pass that the word of the under-King, Gordon, surnamed Granger, who is next to the King, and overlooketh the city, came unto the Tycoon, saying,

40. I command you that you put up thy two swords and cease to war against the Mandarins, making vacant their places.

41. And the Tycoon thus commanded durst not to the contrary, but put up his swords and ceased to gather the heads of the Mandarins.

42. But the Tycoon was exceeding wroth with the under-King because he had made him to cease from the slaughter of the Mandarins, and the strengthening of his own hands with the scalawags.

43. So he went privily unto the King and poisoned his ear

against the under-King, even as one poisoneth a chalice that he that drinketh therein may die.

44. And the King caused the under-King to be relieved from his household, and gave him much furlough, that he might travel into far-off places and see his mother and relations.

45. For the under-king was a Democrat, swearing by Seymour and Blair, and hating small tyrants.

46. So the Tycoon seemeth to triumph, and now prepareth to strike with his swords again, even as the rattlesnake that soundeth his rattles, giving warning.

47. Here endeth the third chapter of the Acts of the New King, and the Chronicles of the Doings of the Second Tycoon.



CHAPTER XII.

THE KING REMOVETH HIM THAT GATHERED TITHES FOR TAXES, AND APPOINTETH A SUCCESSOR IN HIS STEAD.

1. Now it straightway came to pass in the seventh month that the Tycoon, who is Chahoon, the carpet-bagger, went on a journey.

2. And Peebles, the silversmith, who was one of twelve lawgivers of the city, reigned in his absence, weighing out justice in the court of the Temple.

3. And the going away of the Tycoon was like the passing of a cloud from before the face of the sun, for it lifted a shadow from the countenances of the Mandarins who had been persecuted by him very grievously.

4. And the Tycoon that journeyed took with him his carpet-bag; for, behold, he was a carpet-bagger.

5. So he went two days' journey to the North, to embrace his parents and his kinfolk, that they might make much of him, because of the good luck that had raised him up to rule over and spoil the Rephels who dwell in the city of the Seven Hills.

6. But the King tarried in the city with one eye open and an ear to the windward, and went not forth to see his parents and kinfolk, lest, peradventure, the Rephels rise up in sedition and possess themselves of the city and the Province.

7. And a certain man of the tribe of scalawags, one Wigand, called the man-milliner, was collector in the city, and gathered of the substance of the people tithes for taxes.

8. But he was despised of all the people, certain of whom provoked the gamins to chalk scalawag on his door-stoop, and pin papers to his garments, and run before and behind him, shouting mockingly in the streets.

9. So when the Counsellors had come together in their upper chamber, they disputed together over the bond that Wigand, the man-milliner, had given, to the end that he would be honest in his office, and render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, even to the uttermost skad.

10. And Saunders, who copped on the ace of the first King's brother, that is, Schofield, who is assessor, opened his mouth and spake, saying,

11. As I live and the King reigneth, this man's bond is as a bond of straw; therefore am I not as green as grass.

12. And certain other of the Counsellors held forth, saying,

13. As I live and the King reigneth, if this man robbeth the city we shall be without remedy.

14. And they debated, disputing among themselves until the going down of the sun.

15. And the Counsellors, so moved were they, would have risen up and gone unto the place of the tithes-gatherer, and cast him forth.

16. But that they feared the King, and knew not which way the cat would jump.

17. So they restrained themselves and, forthwith proclaiming the office vacant, straightway pitched upon him who should succeed the man-milliner, gathering tithes of the people for taxes.

18. And they pitched upon Edward, surnamed Winne, because of his winning ways, who, though a Northman, was very acceptable to the people, for he had not sought to possess their inheritance nor take away their birthright and mess of porridge.

19. And when this was done, it came to pass that the Counsellors sent deputation unto Wigand the man-milliner, saying,

20. Thy bond is a bond of straw, and because thou hast not given us a good bond, behold, thy office is made vacant as a last year's nest.

21. Now, therefore, we beseech thee, restrain thy wrath, and deliver up into the keeping of these servants of the city the books and bullion, even the greenbacks that thou hast taken of tithes for taxes from the people.

22. But Wigand would not, but, lifting his eyelids betwixt finger and thumb, made inquiry as to the presence of anything green.

23. Moreover, he laughed to scorn them that were of the deputation, and sent them away empty-handed.

24. For Danner, the pettifogger, was with him, and gave him, as was his wont, much legal advice, counselling resistance and a petition to the King.

25. So the deputation returned empty-handed to the Council Chamber, and the Counsellors who had sent them.

26. And when it was told them how Wigand had defied the deputation, they swear each a very terrible oath, saying,

27. As we live and the King reigneth, this man shall cease from his office.

28. And they sent another deputation, even a deputation unto the King, saying,

29. Thy servant, whom thou hast appointed to gather tithes for taxes in the city, defieth us who are the Counsellors.

30. Neither will he make good his bond that he render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's.

31. And the King, hearkening, stretched forth his hand and wrote something.

32. And upon that he had written the King affixed his signet and the great seal, even the black seal of the First Province and the Second King.

33. And he gave the writing unto the chief of the deputation, and they bare it forth, and came again unto the Council Chamber, and the place of him that gathered tithes for taxes, but whose hour had now come.

34. And when Wigand had received the writing of the King, and understood that he had written, his countenance fell a foot or so, his face changed and became as scarlet, or as a garden beet when it is very red.

35. But when his tongue was loosened he opened his mouth and spake, saying,

36. It is well ; the King hath spoken ; his servant is thine truly.

37. And Wigand, who was no more to gather tithes for taxes, gave up unto the keeping of the deputation the books and bullion, even the greenbacks he had taken for taxes.

38. And laid hold upon and shook the skirts of his garment, saying,

39. Thus do I clear my skirts ; see ye to it that thy servant hath been honest in his office.

40. Now, of a verity, like Ananias of old, of whom the Scriptures relate, he had kept back part.

41. But he fell not down dead straightway, for as yet no man had accused him.

42. And Wigand, who was very sorrowful, went out from the presence of the Counsellors, and Danner, his comforter, went with him.

43. And in the great square of the city they sat down and wept sore together, for the purse of the city had been taken away from them, and there was no more pap.

44. Now it came to pass that when the Counsellors had come together again, they would have confirmed the new tithes-gatherer in his office.

45. For, behold, he was ready, and waited in the chamber with his bondsmen, who were known and approved of all men.

46. But certain of the Counsellors, because they were wroth, — Pelouze, who casteth types, and Sharpe, the man of letters, and Van Lew, the renegade, and Humphreys, the blower, — they of the kindred tribes of Scalawag and Carpet-Bagger, stood afar off, and came not nigh unto the Council Chamber where the Counsellors were assembled.

47. And Oliver, the Ethiopian, was sent messenger unto them, beseeching them; but they would not, for they loved Wigand, who was of them, hating Wiane, who was against them.

48. Now, whilst all these things were coming to pass, that the Radical Scriptures might be fulfilled, the scribes, cunning with figures running up the column, into whose hands had been placed the books and bullion and greenbacks that Wigand the tithes-gatherer had given up, made report unto the Counsellors.

49. And the figures that never lie informed against the embezzler, and lo! there was wanting eleven thousand pieces of money, that he had gathered of tithes for taxes.

50. So the figures cried out against Wigand, and the whole city was moved, for his bond was a bond of straw and there was no remedy.

51. For, like Ananias, he had kept back part, and thought to hoodwink the lord of the Treasury, who is Saunders.

52. Now, what will the keeper of the Treasury and the Counsellors do with the unfaithful servant who hath hidden away the eleven thousand pieces of money, even as a squirrel hideth his stores of nuts in due season against the days of winter and want?

53. They will take him, and, unless he restore the uttermost farthing,

54. Behold, they will lay hold upon him, even by the throat, saying,

55. Pay what thou owest of thy unjust gains, even to the uttermost farthing.

56. And if he will not, they shall send him before the tribunal, and the jury shall send him before the Judge, and the Judge shall send him to the House of Reform, whose keeper is Wardwell.

57. And Wardwell shall put upon him a striped garment, and give unto his hand the tablets of the multiplication table, that he be instructed therein and err no more in his figures.

58. But, meantime, Edward, whose surname is Winne, because of his winning ways, gathereth the tithes for taxes.

59. Here endeth the fourth chapter of the Acts of the Second King, and the Chronicles of the Patience of the People.

NOTE.—Subsequent chapters will appear in the second edition of this work, if one is demanded.

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